Sawmill
Safety & Health

Presented By:
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OHSA Consultation Program
Objectives

- To gain awareness of the OSHA requirements.
- To understand how to apply those requirements.
- To understand how to recognize actual and potential safety and health hazards.
## Frequently Cited Standards
### Top 12 for Sawmills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>29 CFR</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910.147</td>
<td>The Control of Hazardous Energy, Lockout/Tagout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.265</td>
<td>Sawmills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.219</td>
<td>Mechanical Power-Transmission Apparatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.212</td>
<td>Machines, General Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.213</td>
<td>Woodworking Machinery Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.305</td>
<td>Electrical, Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Frequently Cited Standards

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29 CFR</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910.303</td>
<td><strong>Electrical Systems Design, General Requirements</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.1200</td>
<td><strong>Hazard Communication</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.23</td>
<td><strong>Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.178</td>
<td><strong>Powered Industrial Trucks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.215</td>
<td><strong>Abrasive Wheel Machinery</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910.95</td>
<td><strong>Occupational Noise Exposure</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Written Programs

- Lockout/Tagout
- Hazard Communication
- PPE Hazard Assessment
- Respiratory Protection
- Employee Emergency Plans and Fire Prevention Plans
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Confined Spaces
Vehicles and Mobile Equipment

- **Warning Signals**
  - Horns are required

- **Brakes**
  - Capable of holding and controlling the vehicle upon any grade which it may be operated.

- **Overhead Guard**
  - Applies to all Powered Industrial Trucks

- **Lights**
  - Required for operation in dark or poorly lighted areas
Lumber Hauling Trucks

Where movement of load on stopping would endanger the operator, a substantial bulkhead shall be installed behind the cab.
Log Unloading Methods
Log Unloading Methods

Do not release binders on logs prior to securing with unloading lines or other unloading devices.
Log Storage Areas

Log unloading areas must be arranged and maintained to provide a safe working area.
Cutoff/Swing Saws

Swing saws on log decks must be equipped with a barricade and stops for protection of employees who may be on the opposite side of the log haul chute.
Cutoff/Swing Saws

Circular log bucking or cutoff saws shall be so located and guarded as to allow safe entrance to and exit from the building.
Cutoff/Swing Saws

Where the cutoff saw partially blocks the entrance from the log haul runway, the entrance must be guarded.
Elevated Platforms or Walkways

- 4-feet or higher requires a standard railing
  - 42-inch top rail
  - 21-inch mid rail
- Exceeding 6-feet requires a Toe Board
Stairways

- **Strength**
  - 5 times the intended load or a minimum of 1000 lbs. live load.

- **Width**
  - 22-inch minimum

- **Angle**
  - 30-50 degrees to the horizontal

- **Platforms**
  - No less than the width and a minimum of 30-inch length.
Stairways

- Railings and Handrails
  - 4 or more risers
  - 30-34 inches above the tread

- Vertical Clearance
  - Minimum of 7-feet overhead
Rotary Debarking

Rotary barking devices must be guarded to protect employees from flying chips, bark, or other material.
Debarking

- The hazardous area around ring barkers and their conveyors must be fenced off or posted as a prohibited area.
- Hydraulic barkers must be enclosed with strong baffles at the inlet and outlet. The operator must be protected by adequate safety glass or equivalent.
- Holddown rolls must be installed at the infeed and outfeed sections of mechanical ring barkers to control the movement of logs.
Log Decks

- Log decks must be provided with adequate stops, chains, or other safeguards to prevent logs from rolling down the deck onto the carriage or its runway.
Log Decks

- Safe access to the head rig must be provided.
- Erect a barricade to stop any log between the sawyer's stand and the log deck.
A substantial stop or bumper with adequate shock-absorptive qualities shall be at each end of the carriage runway.
GIT-R-DONE!!
Provide a control locking device, carriage tie-down, or both to prevent unintended movement of the carriage.

Provide a barrier to prevent employees from entering the travel space of the carriage. Post warning signs at possible entry points to this area.
Conveyors

- Belts and Pulleys

- Chains and Sprockets
Saws

- Inspect Frequently.
- Do not operate at speeds in excess of those specified by the manufacturer.
- Maintain all original guarding as equipped by the manufacturer.
- Where employees are exposed to the point of operation and additional guarding is not feasible, provide a minimum “safe distance” of 42-inches for the hazardous area (by erecting barriers).
Chainsaw Safety Devices

- Chain Brake
- Chain Catch
- Throttle Interlock

Chaps and Eye Protection are required Personal Protective Equipment
Woodworking Equipment
Guarding Requirements
Edgers

- Shall be adequately guarded.
- Equipped with pressure feed rolls.
- Equipped with anti-kickback devices.
- Shall not be located in the main roll case behind the head saws.
Planers

- All cutting heads shall be guarded.
- Pressure feed rolls and “pineapples” shall be guarded.
Planers

Cover cutting heads with a metal guard or cage. The exhaust system may be integrated with the guard.
Whole Log Chippers

The feed system shall be arranged so the operator does not stand in direct line with the spout or hopper.

The spout shall be enclosed to a height of not less than 36-inches from the floor or operator’s platform.

Otherwise, a safety belt and lifeline shall be worn by the operator (to prevent falling into the chipper).
Lumber Piling and Storage

- Foundations must be designed and arranged to support maximum loads without sinking, sagging or permitting the piles to topple.
- Piles of lumber which have become unstable, shall be immediately made safe.
Health Hazards

- Steam pipes may be insulated with asbestos.
- Some babbits may contain lead.
- CO2 formed as a byproduct of combustion form LPG powered equipment.
- High temperatures in drying kilns and power plants.
- Lasers are injurious to eyes and body.
- Paints and adhesives may necessitate PPE.
Health Hazards cont.

- Silver Solder (used in saw sharpening) may contain cadmium.
- Welding Fumes
- Wood Preservatives may cause dermatitis and severe irritation of the eyes and respiratory track.
- Wood Dust (most hardwood dusts are considered to be toxic)
- Ventilation – mechanical exhaust
Blower, Collecting, and Exhaust Systems

**Collecting Systems**
- Applies to all machines creating dust, shaving, chips, or slivers during a period of time equal to or greater than 25% of the working day.

**Exhaust or Conveyor Systems**
- Applies to all machines that create dust, shavings, chips, or slivers.
- Located and adjusted to remove the maximum amount of refuge.
Exhaust System

- Exhaust pipes shall not discharge into an unconfined outside pile if uncontrolled fire or explosion hazards are created.
- They may empty into settling or dust chambers, designed to prevent the refuse from entering the work area.
- Refuse must be removed daily in all operations not required to have an exhaust system.
Lighting

- Illumination shall be provided in work areas.
- It shall be adequate and effective.
Comments
or
Questions